



At Kindergarten

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Foreign Languages Press
Peking

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Big Tomatoes

Story by Pu Hung

Illustrations by Yin Chia-lang



Kindergarten is a lively place.
I take a shovel, you take a spade;
We learn gardening early.
Everyone's happy planting tomatoes.





When the seeds sprout,
In the garden we plant them out.
Aunty Chang is invited from a commune
To help us grow our tomatoes.

Aunty Chang tells us how
To make the tomato plants grow well.
We must water and manure them regularly,
Prune and spray them without fail.





Hsiao Pao arrives early every day
To water the plants with her little pals.
They're not afraid of hard work or dirt,
And don't mind sweat running down their faces.



The young plants thrive in the sun,
Growing them is lots of fun.
Auntie carries manure to the field,
Hsiao Pao spreads it around the plant roots.

Not feeling tired or afraid of dirt,
Hsiao Pao spreads manure carefully.
“You’re a good child,” says Auntie Chang.
“You love labour and work hard.”



We nip off branches that bear no flowers,
For they take nourishment but do not produce.
Plants must have air, sun, and food,
If they are to grow well.





The weather is dry and insects come out;
They want to eat the young plants up.
Aunty Chang mixes insecticide,
And we all spray it on.



When Aunty says we should put up a trellis,
We make one of bamboo, binding the poles tight.
Each pole supports and is supported by the others,
Combined, they form a sturdy latticework.





When wind and rain stir the leaves,
We come to protect the plants.
After the storm we inspect —
There's not one tomato less.



Big tomatoes a-plenty,
Red and shining and ripe.
You pick some and I will too,
Our baskets fill to the brim.





Aunty Chang praises us,
Because we love labour.
We learn farming as little tots,
And thrive together with our plants.







Start Early to Build Good Health

Story by Lu Ping

Illustrations by Wu Ching-lu







There goes the whistle.
Let's go out for exercise.



Little Hua is busy playing doctor for her doll.

“Little Hua,” calls Little Ying running in, “the Physical Culture School has sent a big sister to help us train.” “But my doll has a fever,” replies Little Hua.



The small Yuan, Lan and Chuang, and the young coach
from the school all come to persuade Little Hua.





“Let’s practise on the balance beam,” suggests the coach. Little Hua puts down her rag doll and play stethoscope at once and goes with the coach to the balance beam.

On the playground, Yuan, Lan, Chuang and Ying walk the balance beam one after another. "Now it's your turn, Little Hua," says the coach.







Little Hua has never walked the balance beam, and her legs shake. But the coach encourages her, and she walks over step by step. The others clap their hands.





Little Yuan steps onto the balance beam, pretending he's a construction worker. He begins laying bricks.



**“Little Yuan has sprained his ankle,”
says the coach. Little Hua hurries over
to treat Little Yuan with acupuncture.**





Little Lan walks over the balance
beam, imitating a peasant sowing seed.





“Little Lan working across the river suddenly has a stomachache,” the coach says. Little Hua cries: “I’ll cross the river and give her some medicine.” Little Hua walks quickly over the balance beam.







Little Chuang takes his toy gun in his hands as he starts running across. “I’m a People’s Liberation Army man,” he shouts, “and I’ll fight the enemy bravely.”







Little Chuang suddenly loses his balance and falls. “Oh!” Little Hua exclaims, “Little Chuang is wounded, and I’m a medical worker....” She immediately runs over the balance beam to give first-aid.

**Little Hua bandages Little Chuang's head
with her handkerchief. The soldier springs
to his feet and goes on charging the enemy.**





The young coach sums up: "Today's drill went very well! Little Hua was quite brave. Our training is not simply to build up health! We want to learn to 'fear neither hardship nor death' as well."







The children dance and sing:
“Sunflowers are smiling in the sun,
We are Chairman Mao’s good children.
Building up good health from small,
We’ll grow up able to answer our country’s call.”

We Love Working and Playing Together

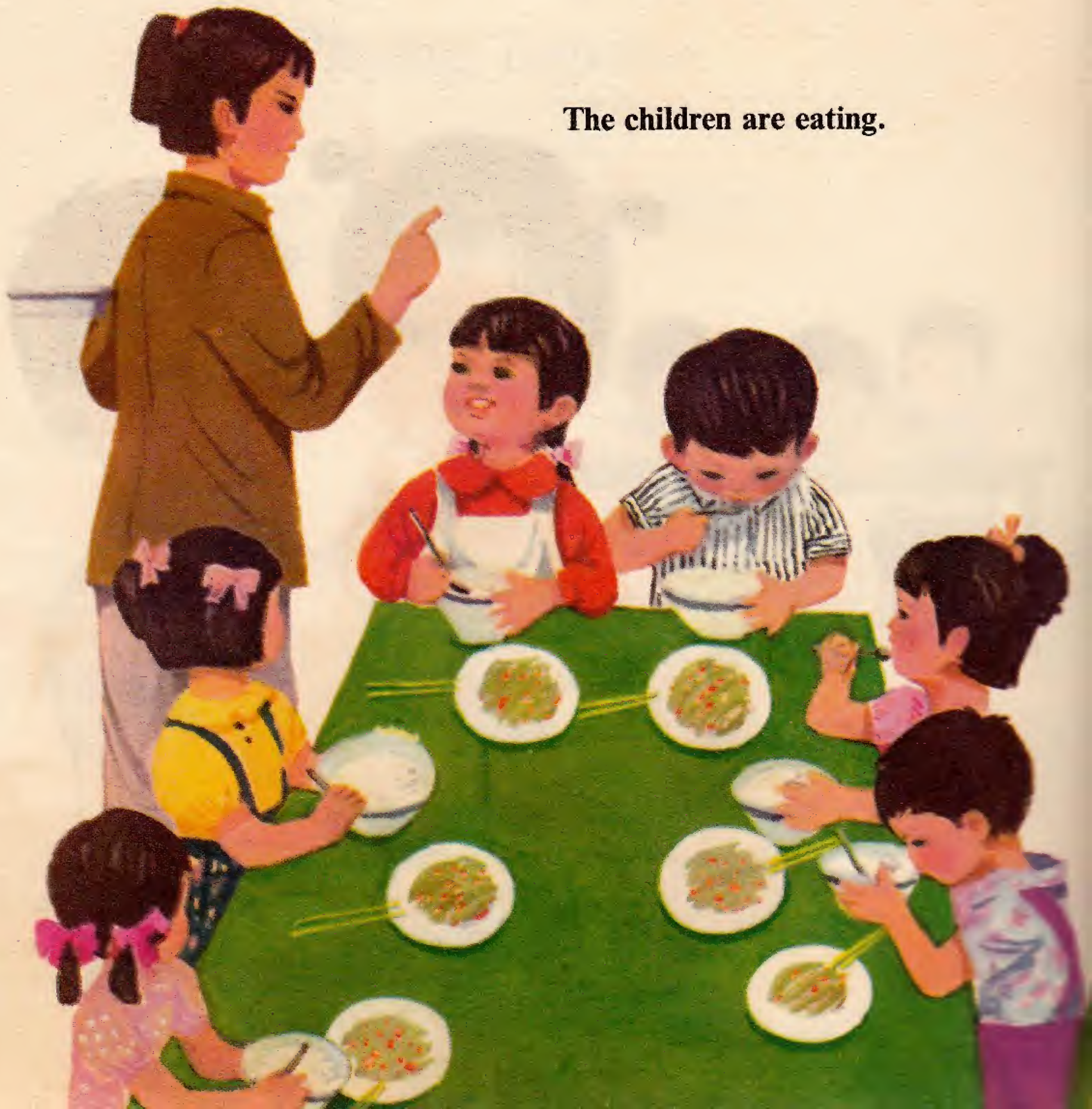
Story by Chen Pao-yuan

Illustrations by Chen Chi-yun, Cheng Lei
and Hsu Cheng-hung



Closing the Window

The children are eating.



Suddenly it starts to rain.



Hsiao Hua runs into the
nap room to close the
window. She stands on
tiptoe but still can't
reach it.





What shall she do? Hsiao Hua is going to get a chair when Hsiao Jung comes rushing up with one.

**Hsiao Jung steadies
the chair while Hsiao
Hua climbs up on it
and closes the window.
The rain comes down
harder.**



Hsiao Jung and Hsiao Hua go back to the table. The children say: "We should learn from Hsiao Jung and Hsiao Hua to care about the whole group."





Building with Construction Blocks

Hsiao Ming is on duty today. She comes in with a box of construction blocks. The children all run over to her.



When Hsiao Ming puts the box on the table, Hsiao Tao wants to take some blocks for himself. Hsiao Ming stops him. "Don't do that," she says. "Let's build together."



Hsiao Tao doesn't listen. But he can't build anything with his few blocks. Hsiao Ming says: "Look, you can't build anything, and neither can we. Let's play with them together."





Teacher praises Hsiao Ming. She points to a picture of the Yangtze River Bridge and asks: "What would happen if the worker uncles divided up the bridge-building material?"



Hsiao Ming stands up and replies: "If they did, no bridge could be built. Now, suppose we build a bridge with the blocks." Hsiao Tao and the others all shout: "Yes, let's build a bridge!"





Together, each adding a piece, the children build a beautiful Yangtze River Bridge. They are so happy that they join hands and dance around it.

Serving the Group

Several children run to the ping-pong table, each wanting to play first.





Hsiao Chiang suggests: “Let’s line up and take turns.” The children think that’s a good idea.



They form into teams. Hsiao Chiang says: "You play, I'll be referee." The children play happily.



Suddenly a boy runs in and steps on the ball, denting it so that it won't bounce.

Hsiao Chiang puts it
in a cup of hot water.
It becomes round again.





Hsiao Chiang returns with the ball. The children clap their hands. But he says: "Serving the whole group is what I ought to do."

First Edition 1978

Printed in the People's Republic of China

在 幼 儿 园 里

普 紅 魯 兵 陈宝元 编
尹家猷 吳 頌 芦 陈其云等绘

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外文出版社出版 (北京)

1978年(24开) 第一版

编号: (英)8050—1713

00075

88—E—145P

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